

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending and under examination in the present application, claim 14 having been added as a new claim with this Amendment.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ushikubo (USP 4,917,164) is respectfully traversed. In the Amendment to claim 1, the first linear portion and second linear portion are defined as intersecting at the point P at an intersecting angle of from 15 to 60 degrees, and the height of the turnup portion is strictly defined such that the radial distance from the point Q is less than 0.5 times the distance (gt). In view of the newly limited features of claim 1 which are not disclosed in Ueyoko (USP 5,772,811), figure 1, especially, where the claimed first linear portion and second linear portion as well as the point P do not appear, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 and claims dependent upon claim 1 is respectfully urged.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 7, and 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ueyoko '811 is respectfully traversed. In amended claim 1 as is the case with Ushikubo '164, the distance (gt) from the point Q as defined in the claims differs in that in the Ueyoko '811 figure, the distance is one times (gt) from the point Q. As claimed in amended claims 1 and 9, the distance from the point Q (gt) is less than 0.5 times the distance (gt).

Application No.: 09/692,699

The rejection of claims 1, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Madec (USP 4,446,902) is respectfully traversed. Again, the distance from the point Q is specified to be 2 times (gt) which differs now from the distance from the point Q in claims 1 and 9 as being less than 0.5 times the distance (gt).

The rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over either one of Ushikubo '164 or Madec '902 is respectfully traversed. In view of the amendment to claim 1, the rejection of claims 5 and 6 over the art of record is respectfully traversed because claim 1 being patentable over the art of record, those claims dependent thereon should be patentable as well. Thus, the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Ushikubo '164 is respectfully traversed for similar reasons. In any case, it is now believed that the claims as amended define patentably over the art of record and reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully solicited.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of three (3) months to June 19, 2002 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$920.00 is enclosed herewith.

Should the Examiner wish to contact Applicants' representative, he may do so by telephoning Edward H. Valance, Reg. No. 19,896, at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington Metropolitan area.

Application No.: 09/692,699

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising

a tread portion,

a pair of sidewall portions,

a pair of bead portions each with a bead core therein,

a carcass ply of cords extending between the bead portions through the tread portion and sidewall portions and turned up around the bead core in each bead portion from the axially inside to the outside of the tire to form a pair of turnup portions and a main portion therebetween,

a radially outwardly tapering rubber bead apex disposed between each of the turnup portions and the main portion,

each of the turnup portions extending radially outwardly beyond a radially outer end of the bead apex to form an adjoining part in which carcass cords in the turnup portion adjoin carcass cords in the main portion,

in a meridian section of the tire, the sidewall portion and bead portion on each side of the tire having a profile comprising a first linear portion and a second linear portion each being substantially straight,

said first linear portion extending radially outwards from a

point P in substantially parallel to the tire equatorial plane,

said second linear portion extending radially inwards from said point P while inclining axially inwards at an angle of from +15 to +60 degrees with respect to the tire equatorial plane,

an intersecting angle of said first linear portion and said second linear portion at the point P being in a range of from 15 to 60 degrees,

a radially outer end of each of the turnup portions being disposed at a radial distance from a point Q which radial distance is in a range of less than [3] 0.5 times a distance (gt) wherein the distance (gt) is defined as measured from said point P to the carcass ply main portion along a straight line drawn from the point P perpendicularly to the carcass ply main portion, and the point Q is defined as a point at which said straight line intersects the carcass ply main portion.

Claim 9. (Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising

a tread portion,

a pair of sidewall portions,

a pair of bead portions each with a bead core therein,

a carcass ply of cords extending between the bead portions through the tread portion and sidewall portions and turned up around the bead core in each bead portion from the axially inside to the outside of the tire to form a pair of turnup portions and a

main portion therebetween,

a radially outwardly tapering rubber bead apex disposed between each of the turnup portions and the main portion,

each of the turnup portions extending radially outwardly beyond a radially outer end of the bead apex to form an adjoining part in which carcass cords in the turnup portion adjoin carcass cords in the main portion,

in a meridian section of the tire, the sidewall portion and bead portion on each side of the tire having a profile comprising a first linear portion, a second linear portion and a third linear portion each being substantially straight,

said first linear portion extending radially outwards from a point P,

said second linear portion extending radially inwards from said point P while inclining axially inwards,

said third linear portion extending from the radially inner end of the second linear portion to the vicinity of a bead heel,

said first linear portion and said third linear portion being in substantially parallel with each other,

an intersecting [an] angle of said first linear portion and said second linear portion at the point P being in a range of from 15 to 60 degrees,

a radially outer end of each of the turnup portions being disposed at a radial distance from a point Q which radial distance

Application No.: 09/692,699

is in a range of less than [3] 0.5 times a distance (gt) wherein the distance (gt) is defined as measured from said point P to the carcass ply main portion along a straight line drawn from the point P perpendicularly to the carcass ply main portion, and the point Q is defined as a point at which said straight line intersects the carcass ply main portion.

Claim 14 has been added.